

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4924

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' TRIP TO GUAYAQUIL MARCH 21

1. PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ FLEW TO GUAYAQUIL ON MARCH 21 TO REPORT TO CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS THERE ON HIS TWO WEEK TRIP TO THE OPEC SUMMIT MEETING IN ALGIERS, PLUS STATE VISITS TO RUMANIA AND VENEZUELA. DURING A MAJOR SPEECH, BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TV THE EVENING OF MARCH 21, RODRIGUEZ ALSO DISCUSSED HIS CONVERSFPION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS IN CARACAS.

2. RODRIGUEZ SPOKE FROM THE MAIN BALCONY OF THE GUAYAS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL, TO A GROUP OF 3-4000 CHEERING CITIZENS, SOAKED BY A DOWNPOUR. THE SPEECH WAS LARGELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE, IN WHICH RODRIGUEZ THANKED THE PEOPLE OF GUAYAQUIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT, AND SAID HE HAD DEFENDED ECUADOREAN SOVEREIGNTY, DIGNITY, AND INTERESTS. THE TRIP UNDERSCORED ECUADOR'S DECISION TO JOIN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR DEVELOPEMENT OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA IS THE "FUTURE OF THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE", AND ECUADOR WILL DEFEND HER RIGHT TO HER OWN NATURAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY PETROLEUM, AND WILL NOT BE DETERRED BY THREATS OR "CLANDESTINE METHODS". AT THE END OF THE SPEECH, RESPONDING TO SHOUTS FROM THE CROWD,
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THE PRESIDENT VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR "AGRARIAN REFORM"

AND THE PURSUIT OF "AUTHENTIC INDEPENDENCE."

3. AT 7:30 PM, THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED A MAJOR SPEECH, BROADCAST BY RADIO AND TV. IN IT, HE DEFENDED ECUADOR'S MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC AS NECESSARY TO A DEFENSE OF THE RIGHT OF A SOVEREIGN PEOPLE TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THEIR LAND; TALKED ABOUT JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE FUNDED BY WEALTHIER MEMBERS OF OPEC (REPORTED SEPTEL); AND THE INJUSTICE OF THE INEQUALITIES BETWEEN THE RICH NATIONS AND THE POOR NATIONS.

4. OF SPECIAL INTEREST, HE SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS IN CARACAS: "BY HAPPY COINCIDENCE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ATTENDED ONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ, AND AS WAS LOGICAL, THE TWO PRESIDENTS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FRANKLY AND CORDIALLY WITH THIS HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. INTERPRETING THE FEELINGS OF THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE, I REJECTED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA WERE STIMULATING A STERILE CONFRONTATION WITH THE GREAT NATION OF THE NORTH. I TOLD HIM IT WAS UNTHINKABLE THAT UNARMED, UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF CONFRONTATION AGAINST A GREAT ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POWER. IN GOING TO ALGIERS AS A MEMBER OF OPEC, WE WERE ONLY DEFENDING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. I TOLD HIM THAT THE US TRADE LAW WAS AN UNDENIABLE ACT OF REPRISAL AIMED AT TWO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. I REFERRED ALSO TO THE ILLEGAL ACTS OF CERTAIN CALIFORNIA FISHING BOATS, AND NOTED THAT MANY OTHER FOREIGN VESSELS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE UNITED STATES, WERE FISHING LEGALLY, HAVING COMPLIED WITH OUR LAWS AND BOUGHT THE NECESSARY LICENSES. I ALSO REFERRED TO ACTION TAKEN BY INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE IDB, UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES, TO DENY US ACCESS TO CREDITS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CAUSING GRAVE DAMAGE TO OUR COUNTRY, IN AN UNDENIABLE ACT OF POLITICAL OBSTRUCTION WHICH CONTRADICTS PROCLAMATIONS OF COOPERATION FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS. I ALLUDED TO THE DIALOGUE OF TLATELOLCO, WHICH LED TO SUCH HIGH HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS IN THIS

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CONTINENT, AND TO THE DISAPPOINTMENT WHICH HAS FOLLOWED SUBSEQUENT ACTS. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HOPED VERY MUCH TO SEE SIGNS OF A CHANGE IN US POLICIES, AND MENTIONED ALSO THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHICH RUN CONTRARY TO THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS WHO ARE THE OWNERS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES. HE (ROGERS) TOLD US (RODRIGUEZ AND PEREZ) THAT THE TRADE LAW WAS BEING AMENDED TO REMOVE THOSE PROVISIONS WHICH DISCRIMINATED

AGAINST ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE CONVENING OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN WASHINGTON, FAILING WHICH THERE WOULD BE A DENUNCIATION, STRONGER THAN EVER, BY THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA."

5. COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ SPEECH WAS HIS USUAL SOMEWHAT BOMBASTIC PUBLIC SYLE, AND ABOUT WHAT ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED OF A RETURNING HERO, REPORTING TO HIS PEOPLE. HIS DESCRIPTION OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS IN CARACAS PARALLELS PRETTY CLOSELY THE RECITATION IN CARACAS 2938 AND HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THERE, WITH SUITABLE ALLOWANCES FOR THE FACT THAT IN GUAYAQUIL, HE NO DOUBT WANTED TO IMPRESS HIS DOMESTIC AUDIENCE WIHT THE "TOUGH LINE" HE TOOK WITH THE AMERICANS.
BREWSTER

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